

Science Toolkit: Grade 6 Objective 3.F.1.a

Student Handout: Science: Grade 6 Objective 3.F.1.a

Standard 3.0 Life Science

Topic F. Ecology

Indicator 1. Give reasons supporting the fact that the number of organisms an environment can support depends on the physical conditions and resources available.

Objective a. Explain that populations increase or decrease relative to the availability of resources and the conditions of the environment.

Selected Response (SR) Item

Question

Use the information below to answer the following:

Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels have been found in the Chesapeake Bay. These small, non-native mussels sometimes cause economic, environmental, and ecological problems. They block the water intake pipes of industrial plants and limit the ability of the plants to generate power, provide drinking water, or treat sewage. The mussel populations grow rapidly and spread to other bodies of water by attaching to boats and equipment below the surface of the water. They consume large amounts of the algae in the water and may decrease the oxygen level of the water. Many beaches are also littered with the sharp shells of decaying zebra mussels.



An increase in a population of zebra mussels would best be supported by a body of water which has

- A. many beaches
- B. few intake pipes
- C. many algae plants
- D. few boating activities

Correct Answer

C. many algae plants

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